

closely related. The short beak of the female, the robust form and reddish legs separate the female from *Apion varicorne* Smith with which it may be confused.

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OCTOTOMA GUNDLACHI MINING LANTANA LEAVES IN CUBA

By PATRICIA VAURIE¹

The chrysomelid, *Octotoma gundlachi* Suffrian, a small, flat, shining, purplish-black, heavily sculptured beetle of the subfamily Hispinae, was found mining leaves of a *Lantana* plant on a hillside at Topes de Collantes in the province of Las Villas, Cuba, on July 17, 1956. This locality is 17 kilometers north of the old colonial town of Trinidad on the southern coast, at about 3,000 feet of altitude. Ten individuals were taken from the same plant, one of these being captured just as it was emerging from its little brown pocket in the leaf. A few other plants nearby were inspected but no beetles were seen on them. The other specimens were taken a week earlier at the western tip of Cuba on the Peninsula of Guanahacabibes, but I do not remember in what situation. This is the only species of the genus reported in Cuba and probably occurs all over the island although I have seen but one other specimen (in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York), which is from the eastern end of the island, from Cristo, north of Santiago, in Oriente Province.

In some countries, notably Hawaii, the prettily flowered *Lantana* bush becomes a noxious plant and means for its control have been sought through parasites. Dr. N. L. H. Krauss has told me in a recent letter that he had introduced into Hawaii, among other control insects of various families, a Mexican species of the same genus, *Octotoma scabripennis* Guérin, which attacks *Lantana* in the same way as *gundlachi*. He believes there may be other species of *Octotoma* that attack different species of *Lantana* in tropical America. Dr. Krauss had also seen *gundlachi* mining in *Lantana* in Cuba, at Bosque de Habana in Havana and in Viñales Valley in Pinar del Rio Province, but he had not found it numerous enough for his purposes.

¹American Museum of National History.